

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of metal in the liquid metal carboxylate composition is in the range of 30 to 50 grams of metal per kilogram of liquid metal carboxylate composition.

20. (Amended) A coated cutting tool comprising:

- (a) a metal or hard-alloy cutting tool, and
- (b) a coating comprising an oxidation product of metal carboxylate disposed on the cutting tool using the method of claim 1.

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-23 will be pending in this application.

Applicant has amended the specification and claim 18 to resolve the issues raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that claims 1-20 are allowable over the art of record.

Applicant further notes the Examiner's comments that the product claimed in claims 20-23 could be produced by a materially different process, thus necessitating an additional search. This rationale forms the basis for the Examiner's restriction of these claims.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to recite that the product recited therein is produced by the